



## Using the PWM

### INTRODUCTION

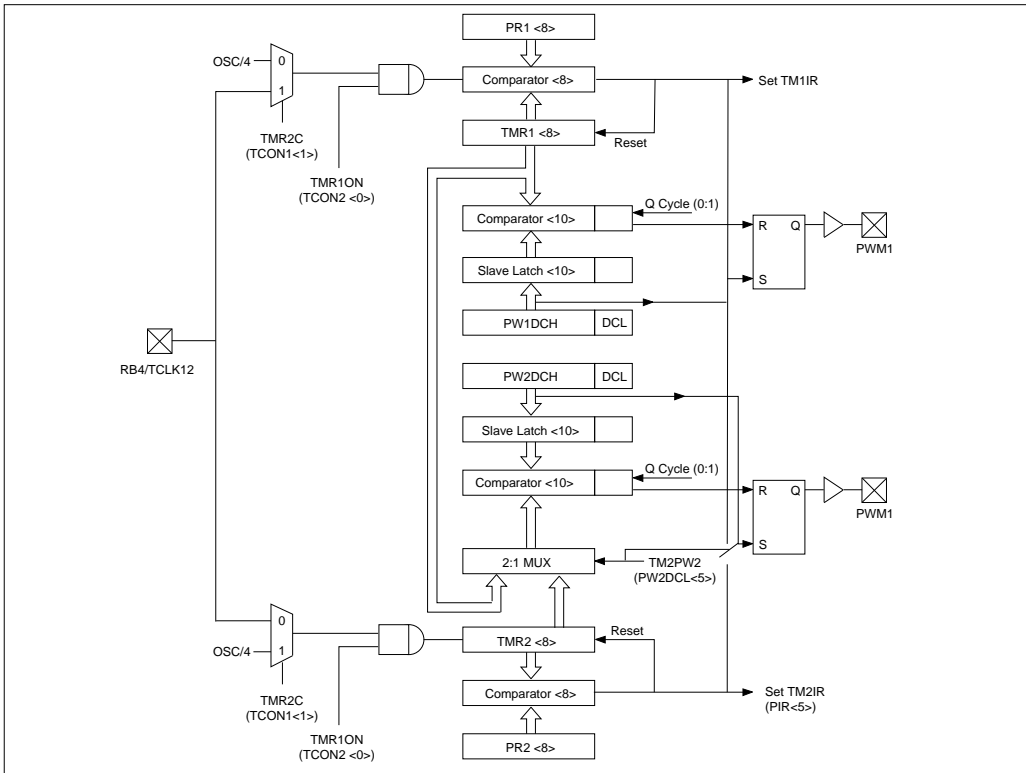
The PIC16/17 family of RISC-like microcontrollers has been designed to provide advanced performance and a cost-effective solution for a variety of applications. This application report provides examples which illustrate the uses of Pulse Width Modulation (PWM) using the PIC17C42 Timer1 or Timer2 modules. These examples may be modified to suit the specific needs of your application.

This Application Note describes the operation of the PWM. They include the following topics:

1. Simple PWM Operation
2. Variable Period / Variable Duty Cycle PWM
3. External Clock for Timer Timebase (ramifications/issues)

The listing file for the Variable Period / Variable Duty Cycle example can be found in Appendix A. The source files can be found on the Microchip BBS. On directions on how to access the Microchip BBS please refer to DS30128, which can also be found in the Microchip Embedded Control Handbook (Literature Number DS00092).

FIGURE 1 - TIMER1 AND TIMER2 BLOCK DIAGRAM WITH PWM MODE



# PWM Operation

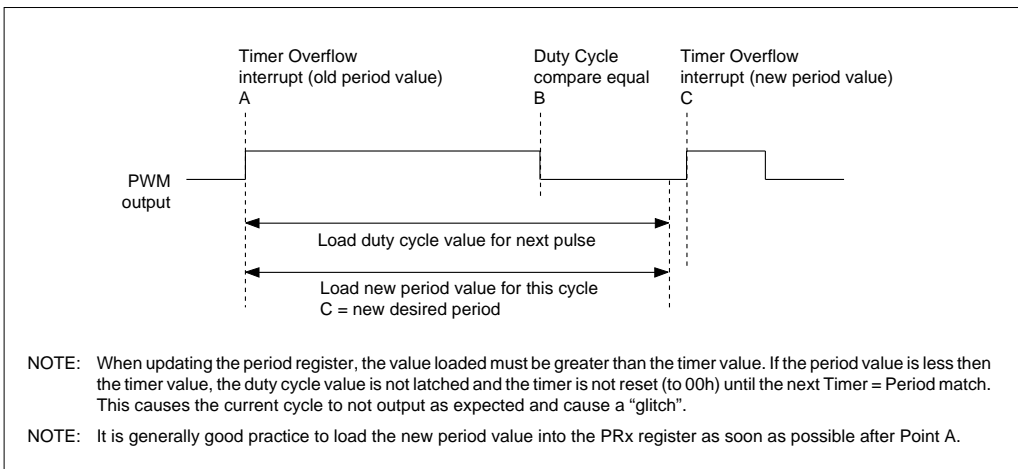
The control registers that are utilized by Timer1 and Timer2 are shown in Table 1. Shaded Boxes are control bits that are not used by the Timer1 nor Timer2 module.

**TABLE 1 - REGISTERS ASSOCIATED WITH TIMER3 AND CAPTURE**

Name	BANK	ADDR	bit 7	bit 6	bit 5	bit 4	bit 3	bit 2	bit 1	bit 0
INTSTA		0x06	PEIR	RTXIR	RTCIR	INTIR	PEIE	RTXIE	RTCIE	INTIE
CPUSTA		0x07	-	-	STKAV	GLINTD	TO	PD	-	-
TMR1	2	0x10	Timer1 Register							
TMR2	2	0x11	Timer2 Register							
PR1	2	0x14	Timer1 Period Register							
PR2	2	0x15	Timer2 Period Register							
PIR	1	0x16	IRB	TM3IR	TM2IR	TM1IR	CA2IR	CA1IR	TBMT	RBFL
PIE	1	0x17	IEB	TM3IE	TM2IE	TM1IE	CA2IE	CA1IE	TXIE	RCIE
PW1DCL	3	0x10	PWM1 Duty Cycle Low Register							
PW2DCL	3	0x11	PWM2 Duty Cycle Low Register							
PW1DCH	3	0x12	PWM1 Duty Cycle High Register							
PW2DCH	3	0x13	PWM2 Duty Cycle High Register							
TCON1	3	0x16	CA2ED1	CA2ED0	CA1ED1	CA1ED0	6/8	TMR3C	TMR2C	TMR1C
TCON2	3	0x17	CA2OVF	CA1OVF	PWM2ON	PWM1ON	CA1/PR3	TMR3ON	TMR2ON	TMR1ON

Care must be taken when loading values into the PWM registers. These registers are the duty cycle registers (PWxDCH:PWxDCL) and the period register (PRx). Figure 2 shows the proper update timing of these values.

**FIGURE 2 - TIMING FOR UPDATING THE DUTY CYCLE REGISTERS AND PERIOD REGISTER**



## SIMPLE PWM OPERATION

Simple PWM operation is where the period of the PWM output remains constant, and only the duty cycle is modified. The PWM can operate in either of two modes:

- Hi-resolution mode-the PWxDCL register is modified
- Standard resolution mode - the PWxDCH register is not modified

When operating in the standard-resolution mode, only the PW-DCH register is ever modified. Since this takes only a single cycle, this can be done at any time. Also since the period is remaining constant this may be done without any PWM interrupt software overhead.

When operating in the high-resolution mode both the PWxDCH:PWxDCL register pair is modified. Since this is a multicycle update, care needs to be taken that the "new" PWM duty cycle value is not latched until the update is complete. If the duty cycle is latched before this update is complete, the duty cycle will display a "glitch". If the PWxDCH is written first, the maximum error is 3 Q-cycles (187.5 ns @ 16 MHz). If the PWxDCL is written first, the maximum error is also 3 Q-cycles (187.5 ns @ 16 MHz), with the PWxDCH delayed by one PWM period. This may be acceptable for some applications. If this is not acceptable for your application then a subroutine can be written to ensure that these duty cycle writes are not done when the timer will equal the period. One implementation of this subroutine (PWM\_UD) is used in the Variable Period / Variable Duty Cycle PWM example. This is discussed in the following section, with the listing in Appendix A.

Additional code examples can be found in application note AN539 in the Embedded Control Handbook.

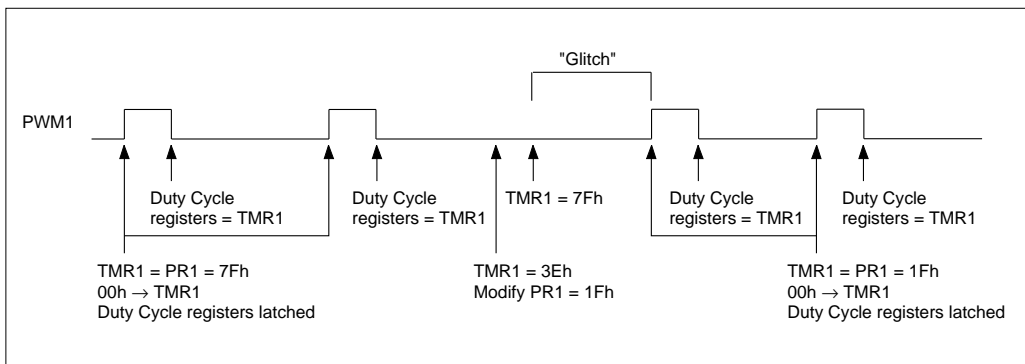
## VARIABLE PERIOD / VARIABLE DUTY CYCLE PWM

In a variable period / variable duty cycle PWM both the duty cycle of the PWM as well as the frequency (period) of the PWM are modified.

The PIC17C42's hardware double buffers the duty cycle registers, but the period registers are not double buffered. What this means is that you can modify the duty cycle registers, but the value will only be latched when the timer register equals period register. Since the period register is not buffered, as the period register is modified this becomes the "new" period. This means that care must be taken when modifying the period register. The most common problem would be to modify the period register resulting in a "glitch" to occur. This "glitch" occurs when the period register is modified with a value that is less than the present timer value. The timer does not have a match with the old period value, and continues to count until the timer register equals period register.

Figure 3, shows an example where the period (PR1) register = 7Fh. Then the period is modified to a smaller value (PR1 = 1Fh) without checking that the value in Timer1 (TMR1) register = 3Eh. Since the new period (PR1) value is less than the present timer (TMR1) value, a glitch has occurred.

**FIGURE 3 - MODIFYING PERIOD REGISTER "GLITCH"**



# PWM Operation

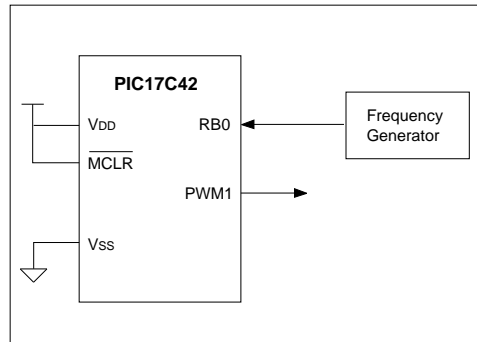
Care must be taken when writing a 10-bit duty cycle value. Since this requires two register writes, the Timer equals period could occur between these two writes, which would give a duty cycle that was not as expected. The cases are as follows:

1. If the duty cycle low (DCL) register is written, and then the Timer equals period. The old DCH register and the new DCL register becomes the duty cycle.
2. If the duty cycle high (DCH) register is written, and then the Timer equals period. The new DCH register and the old DCL register becomes the duty cycle

At the following occurrence of the timer equaling the period, the second register written would be updated. The subroutine PWM\_UD (Appendix A) ensures that these duty cycle writes are not done when the timer will equal the period.

A software example of a variable period / variable duty cycle is shown in Appendix A. In this example the period is double buffered in software, and the new period value is loaded in the timer overflow interrupt service routine. When the new duty cycle needs to be loaded. The device connections are shown in Figure 4. This program has two PWM settings (period / duty cycle combinations) that are switched between depending on the level on pin RB0. A frequency generator was used to give a low frequency signal on the RB0 pin. Figure 5 shows an example of the input and output waveforms.

**FIGURE 4 - APPLICATION HARDWARE SETUP**

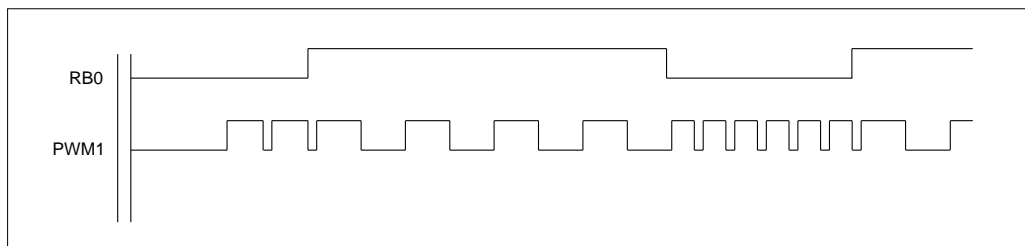


The program listing in Appendix A implements this example, Figure 8 is the flowchart of the program. This example may be modified to suit the particular needs of your application. The Table 3 is a summary of the requirements for this program (@ 16 MHz):

**TABLE 3 - PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS**

Code Size:	52 Words
RAM used:	11 Bytes
Interrupt Service Routine time	3.0 usec
Subroutine time	4.5 usec 6.0 usec
Maximum PWM frequency:	200 KHz
PWM Accuracy:	62.5 nsec

**FIGURE 5 - EXAMPLE APPLICATION WAVEFORMS**



## EXTERNAL CLOCK FOR TIMER TIMEBASE

The counters used for the time base of the PWM outputs can be software selected to operate from an external clock source. This allows a lower frequency PWM to be achieved. Doing this brings up new issues that must be understood for the application.

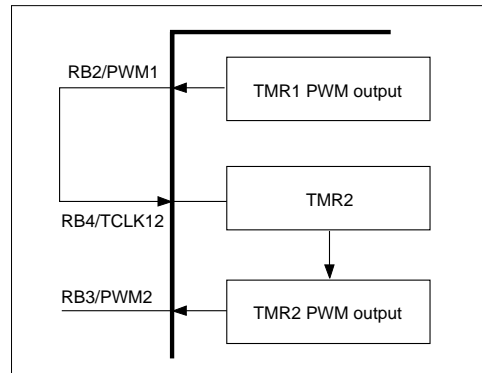
One of these issues is clock synchronization. All external clocks must be synchronized to the internal operating speed of the microcontroller, as shown in figure 9. When this synchronization occurs the PWM output is not truly operating from the external clock, but actually the internal synchronized clock. This leads to a "jitter" of the output to the clock. This jitter is caused from the delta time between the external clock and the synchronized clock not being constant. The synchronization errors are:

$$\text{Duty cycle error} = \pm T_{cy}$$

$$\text{Period error} = \pm T_{cy}$$

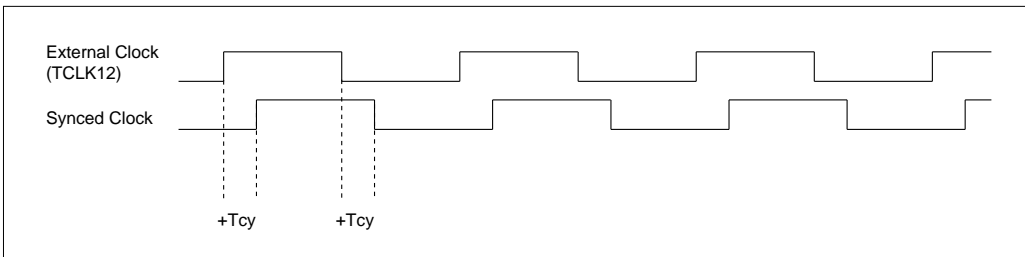
If you needed to run the PWM at a low frequency, and also want to reduce the "jitter" from the use of an external asynchronous clock, a PWM output could be used as the synchronous clock source. When the clock is synchronized to the device the clock error is always constant, so there is no jitter. Figure 7 shows this example.

**FIGURE 7 - PWM OUTPUT TO GENERATE A SYNCHRONOUS CLOCK**



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**FIGURE 6 - EXTERNAL CLOCK SYNCHRONIZATION**



# PWM Operation

Another use is where precise timing of updates need to be done, but not at the frequency of the PWM output. In this discussion, TMR1 is used as the time-base of a constant frequency PWM output. TMR1 uses the internal clock of the device and TMR2 uses the external clock input. TMR2 will get the clock input from the PWM2 output.

The PWM output is a constant frequency variable duty cycle output. The PW1DCH:PW1DCL register pair contain the variable duty cycle value of PWM1 output. The PW2DCH:PW2DCL register pair is set for a fixed duty cycle (50%) for the PWM2 output.

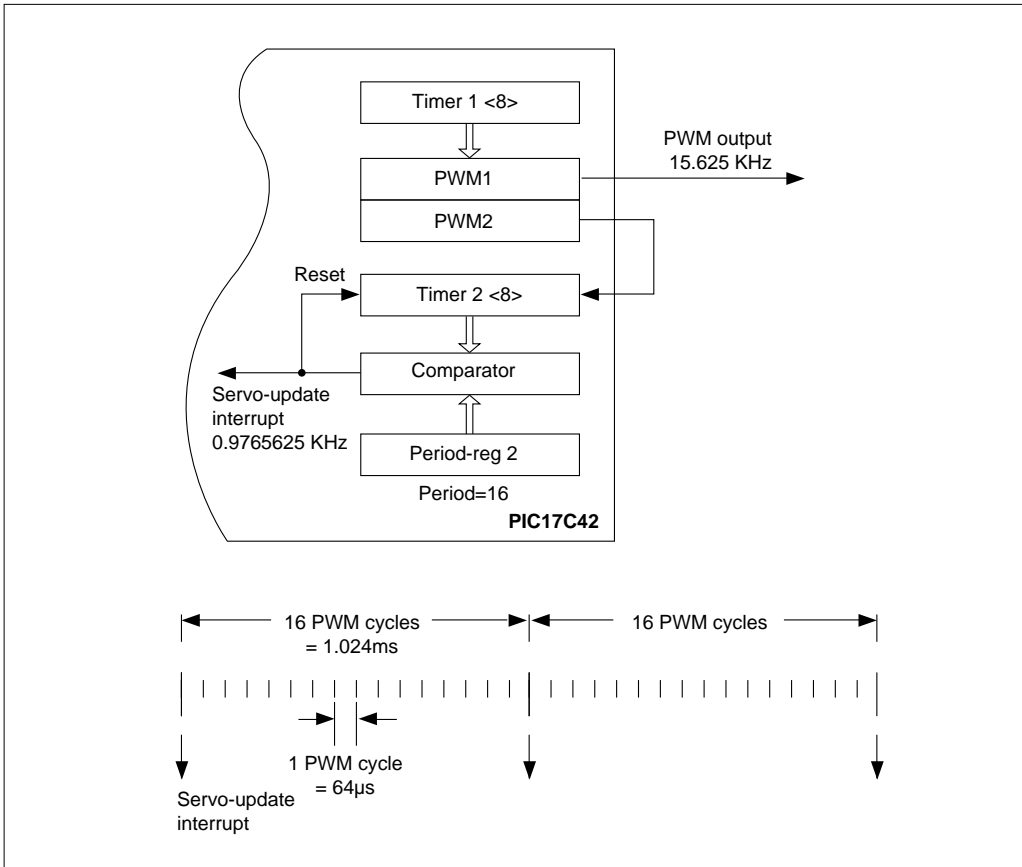
The PWM outputs could be programmed to have a frequency of 20 KHz, so to reduce audible noise. The PWM2 signal is connected to the RB4/TCLK12, as shown in Figure 8. The PR2 register could be loaded with 14h (20), to give an interrupt every 1 KHz. This interrupt can then trigger tasks, such as updating the duty cycle of PWM1. This is useful in motor control as well as other applications where the update rate is less than the PWM frequency.

## CONCLUSION

The PIC17C42's PWM features offer a high performance solution at a lower system cost than previously available. The versatility of PWMs make the PIC17C42 ideal for motor control applications (see AN532) and many industrial control applications.

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**FIGURE 8 - SAMPLING SCHEME**



## APPENDIX A: LISTING FILE

MPASM B0.54

PAGE 1

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LIST P=17C42, T=ON, C=120, N=0

; This is the basic outline for a program that generates a
; variable PWM output. The PWM's period and duty cycle can
; be varied. The new period (NEW_PR1) and the new duty cycle
; (NEW_DC1 and NEW_DC1Q) are loaded by the user program.
; The peripheral interrupt routine loads the new period value
; (frequency) into the PR1 register. A subroutine (PWM_UD)
; is also used to ensure that the 10-bit duty cycle registers
; are updated in the same PWM cycle, i.e. the timer match does not
; occur between two duty cycle register writes.
;
; The duty cycle value gets latched on the overflow (Period match)
; of the timer. The period value gets modified as soon as the period
; register is changed. Therefore care must be taken in updating
; the period register. In cases where the period value is modified
; to a smaller value, we must ensure that the Timer counter is less
; than this value when the period register is updated (TMR1 < new PR1).
; If TMR1 is greater than PR1, the counter will count to FFh, rollover
; to 00H, and only cause the overflow interrupt when it then reaches
; the period value. This would give a wrong PWM output.
;
; In this example the event which cause the PWM to be updated
; is an asynchronous event. A low frequency signal was placed on
; port pin RB0.
; For a high level the PWM registers are updated as follows:
;   PR1 = 7Fh, PW1DCH = 3Fh, and PW1DCL = 40h
; For a low level the PWM registers are updated as follows:
;   PR1 = 1Fh, PW1DCH = 07h, and PW1DCL = 80h
;
; Do the EQUate table
;
0020 NEW_DC1 EQU 0x20 ; New PWM1 duty cycle value
0021 NEW_DC1Q EQU 0x21 ;
0022 NEW_PR1 EQU 0x22 ; New PWM1 period value
0025 PWM_WIN EQU 0x25 ; Register for the PWM window cycle count
0026 CALC_PR EQU 0x26 ; Calculated period value
0027 FLAG_REG EQU 0x27 ; Register for flag bits
;
001A DC1H EQU 0x1A ; PWM registers for high time
001B DC1QH EQU 0x1B
001C PR1H EQU 0x1C
;
001D DC1L EQU 0x1D ; PWM registers for low time
001E DC1QL EQU 0x1E
001F PR1L EQU 0x1F
;
;
07FF END_OF_PROG_MEM EQU 0x07FF
;
0004 ALUSTA EQU 0x04
0006 CPUSTA EQU 0x06
0007 INTSTA EQU 0x07
000A W EQU 0x0A
;
0011 DDRB EQU 0x11 ; Bank 0
0012 PORTB EQU 0x12
;
0016 PIR EQU 0x16 ; Bank 1
0017 PIE EQU 0x17
;

```

# PWM Operation

```

0010          TMR1          EQU    0x10          ; Bank 2
0011          TMR2          EQU    0x11
0012          TMR31         EQU    0x12
0013          TMR3h        EQU    0x13
0014          PR1          EQU    0x14
0015          PR2          EQU    0x15
0016          PR3L         EQU    0x16
0017          PR3h        EQU    0x17
;
0010          PW1DCL        EQU    0x10          ; Bank 3
0011          PW2DCL        EQU    0x11
0012          PW1DCH        EQU    0x12
0013          PW2DCH        EQU    0x13
0016          TCON1        EQU    0x16
0017          TCON2        EQU    0x17

0000 C02B          ORG    0x0000          ; Origin for the RESET vector
; On reset, go to the start of
; the program
; Origin for the external RA0/INT
; interrupt vector
0008 C07C          GOTO  EXT_INT        ; Goto the ext. interrupt
; on RA0/INT routine
; Origin for the RTCC
; overflow interrupt vector
0010 C07D          GOTO  RTCCINT       ; Goto the RTCC overflow interrupt
; routine
; Origin for the external
; RAL/RT interrupt vector
0018 C07E          GOTO  RT_INT        ; Goto the ext. interrupt on
; RAL/RT routine
; Origin for the interrupt vector
; of any enabled peripheral
;
; The interrupt routine for any peripheral interrupt, This routine
; only deals with Timer1 interrupt.
;
; Time required to execute interrupt routine. Not including
; interrupt latency (time to enter into the interrupt routine)
;
; case1 - only T1 overflow          = 12 cycles
; case2 - Other                    = Infinite Loop
;
;
0020 B801          PER_INT          MOVLB  1          ; Select register Bank 1
0021 9416          BTFSF  PIR,4          ; Did Timer1 overflow?
0022 C022          ERROR            GOTO  ERROR        ; Not a Timer1 overflow.
; No other interrupts should
; be enabled, so error.
;
; Once the enabled Timer1 overflow occurs, the period register
; is loaded. This PWM waveform will remain until the PWM duty
; cycle and / or period is updated. Until such update, there is no
; S/W overhead from T1 interrupts (T1 interrupts can be disabled).
;
; NOTE: If PW1DCH >= PR1, then the duty cycle of this PWM output
; is 100%.
;
; NOTE: The new Period register (PR1) value, must always be greater
; than the value in the Timer1 register (TMR1). If a PR1 value
; is loaded that is less then the TMR1 value, the timer will
; continue to count until it reaches the PR1 value. I.E. TMR1
; will overflow at FFh and the count to the new PR1 value.
; Minimum PR1 value is 0Ah, due to time to load new values and
; execute the peripheral interrupt service routine.
;
0023 8C16          T1OVFL          BCF    PIR,4          ; Clear Overflow interrupt flag
0024 B802          MOVLB  2          ; Bank2
0025 7422          MOVFP  NEW_PR1,PR1      ; Load this period value

```



```

0026 B801          MOVLB  1          ; Bank 0
0027 8C17          BCF    PIE, 4      ; Disable T1 interrupt
                                ; (until transition on PORTB0)

0028 B800          MOVLB  0          ; Bank 0
0029 3F12          BTG    PORTB, 7    ; Transition PortB 7 pin (H->L,
002A 0005          RETFIE         ; Return from Interrupt

;
; This is the start of the program.
;
002B 8406          START      BSF    CPUSTA,4    ; Disable ALL interrupts via the
                                ; Global Interrupt Disable
                                ; (GLINTD) bit.
                                ;
                                ; Place Main program here
                                ;
                                ; Select register Bank 3
002C B803          MOVLB  3          ; Select register Bank 3
002D 2817          CLRF   TCON2,0      ; Stop the timers, Single Capture
002E B070          MOVLW  0x070      ; Initialize TCON1 so that
002F 0116          MOVWF  TCON1      ; T1 (8-bit), T2 (8-bit),
                                ; and T3 run off the internal
                                ; system clock. Timer3 uses
                                ; period register
                                ; Load the PWM window cycle value
0030 B00D          MOVLW  0x0D      ; Load the PWM window cycle value
0031 0125          MOVWF  PWM_WIN      ;
;
0032 B800          MOVLB  0          ; Select register Bank 0
0033 2B11          SETF   DDRB, 1      ; Port B is an input
0034 2912          CLRF   PORTB, 1     ; Set output values to 0 (for
0035 8F11          BCF    DDRB, 7      ; PORTB7 is an output. Used to
0036 2927          CLRF   FLAG_REG, 1   ; Clear the Flag registers
;
; Load registers with the PWM values that we will switch between. One set
; for the time PORTB0 is high and another set for when low.
;
; For a high level the PWM registers are updated as follows:
; PR1 = 7Fh, PW1DCH = 3Fh, and PW1DCL = 40h
; At 16Mhz this gives a period of 31.75 us, and a duty cycle of 16.625 us
; For a low level the PWM registers are updated as follows:
; PR1 = 1Fh, PW1DCH = 07h, and PW1DCL = 80h
; At 16Mhz this gives a period of 7.75 us, and a duty cycle of 6.00 us
;
0037 B803          MOVLB  3          ; Bank 3
0038 B03F          MOVLW  0x3F      ; The Duty Cycle initial value is
0039 4A1A          MOVFP  W, DC1H      ; 50% of the initial period
003A B040          MOVLW  0x40      ;
003B 4A1B          MOVFP  W, DC1QH      ; Duty Cycle low = 01
003C B007          MOVLW  0x07      ; The Duty Cycle initial value is
003D 4A1D          MOVFP  W, DC1L      ; 25% of the initial period
003E B080          MOVLW  0x80      ;
003F 4A1E          MOVFP  W, DC1QL      ; Duty Cycle low = 10
;
0040 B802          MOVLB  2          ; Bank 2
0041 B07F          MOVLW  0x7F      ;
0042 4A1C          MOVFP  W, PR1H      ; The initial period value is 50%
                                ; of full scale (for High)
0043 B01F          MOVLW  0x1F      ;
0044 4A1F          MOVFP  W, PR1L      ; The initial period value is
                                ; of full scale (for Low)
;
;
; Default PWM values should be set, and the timer should be started
; and the interrupts enabled.
;
0045 B0F0          MOVLW  0xF0      ; Load the Period register
0046 0114          MOVWF  PR1          ;
0047 B803          MOVLB  3          ; Select register Bank 3
0048 B0C0          MOVLW  0xC0      ; Load the T1 duty cycle register
0049 0112          MOVWF  PW1DCH      ;
004A 0110          MOVWF  PW1DCL      ; effectively loaded with 0

```

# PWM Operation

```
004B B031          MOVLW 0x31          ;** Enable PWM1 and PWM2 outputs
004C 0117          MOVWF TCON2          ;** and turn on Timer1.
004D 8307          BSF INTSTA,3        ; Turn on Peripheral Interrupts
004E B801          MOVLB 1            ; Select register Bank 1
004F B010          MOVLW 0x10         ; Enable Timer1 overflow
0050 0117          MOVWF PIE          ; Interrupts (when GLINTD = 0)
0051 8C06          BCF CPUSTA,4       ; Enable ALL interrupts
0052 B800          MOVLB 0            ; Bank 0

;
; Only need to update PWM values on the first occurrence of a new level on
; Else loop waiting for level to change.
;
0053 8827          HIGH1ST BCF FLAG_REG, 0 ; First time in loop (this cycle) = True
0054 9012          HIGHCYC BTFSS PORTB, 0 ; Is PortB0 low
0055 C05F          GOTO LOW1ST        ; PORTB0 = L
0056 9827          BTFSC FLAG_REG, 0   ; Is this the First High time(this cycle)?
0057 C054          GOTO HIGHCYC       ; Loop looking for low signal on PortB0
0058 8027          BSF FLAG_REG, 0     ; Set First time in loop(this cycle)=False

;
; Here is where we update the PWM values (period and Duty cycle) for high
;
0059 B803          MOVLB 3            ; Bank 3
005A 5A20          MOVFPF DC1H, NEW_DC1 ;
005B 5B21          MOVFPF DC1QH, NEW_DC1Q ;
005C 5C22          MOVFPF PR1H, NEW_PR1 ;
005D E06B          CALL PWM1_UD        ;
005E C054          GOTO HIGHCYC       ; Loop looking for low signal on

;
;
005F 8827          LOW1ST BCF FLAG_REG, 0 ; First time in loop (this
0060 9812          LOWCYC BTFSC PORTB, 0 ; Is PortB0 high
0061 C053          GOTO HIGH1ST        ; PORTB0 = H
0062 9827          BTFSC FLAG_REG, 0   ; Is this the First Low time
0063 C060          GOTO LOWCYC        ; Loop looking for high signal on PortB0
0064 8027          BSF FLAG_REG, 0     ; First time in loop (this ;
; Here is where we update the PWM values (period and Duty cycle) for low
;
0065 B803          MOVLB 3            ; Bank 3
0066 5D20          MOVFPF DC1L, NEW_DC1 ;
0067 5E21          MOVFPF DC1QL, NEW_DC1Q ;
0068 5F22          MOVFPF PR1L, NEW_PR1 ;
0069 E06B          CALL PWM1_UD        ;
006A C060          GOTO LOWCYC        ; Loop looking for high signal

;
; This code segment ensure that all PWM values (period and duty cycle)
; are updated at the same time. This is done by ensuring that the Timer
; is at least PWM_WIN (0Dh) cycles before the PR1 value (PR1 - PWM_WIN >
; If not a "glitch" could occur in the PWM waveform. When only the 1st duty
; cycle register is latched for this PWM cycle, and the following PWM period
; will latch the 2nd duty cycle register.
;
006B 8406          PWM1_UD BSF CPUSTA, 4 ; Disable Global Interrupts
006C B802          MOVLB 2            ; Bank 2
006D 6A10          MOVFPF TMR1, W      ; Load W reg. with Timer1 value
006E 0414          SUBWF PR1, 0        ; PR1 - TMR1 -> W reg.
006F 3025          CPFSLT PWM_WIN      ; Check if Timer1 is about to
0070 C06B          GOTO PWM1_UD        ; Overflow would have occurred
; PWM updates, Delay a few

0071 B803          MOVLB 3            ; Bank 3
0072 6A20          MOVFPF NEW_DC1, W   ; Your New PWM MSB
0073 0112          MOVWF PW1DCH        ; Loaded in duty cycle buffer
0074 6A21          MOVFPF NEW_DC1Q, W ; Your New PWM LSB
0075 0110          MOVWF PW1DCL        ; Loaded in duty cycle buffer
0076 B801          MOVLB 1            ; Back to Bank 1
0077 8C16          BCF PIR, 4         ; Clear T1 Overflow interrupt
```

```
0078 8417          BSF     PIE, 4           ; Enable T1 int
0079 8C06          BCF     CPUSTA, 4        ; Enable Global Interrupts
007A B800          MOVLB  0             ; Bank 0
007B 0002          RETURN                    ;** this does not need to be
                                           ;** as a subroutine.

;
; Other Interrupt routines. (Not utilized in this example)
;
007C 0005          EXT_INT      RETFIE          ; RAO/INT interrupt routine
                                           ; (NOT used in this program)
007D 0005          RTCCINT      RETFIE          ; RTCC overflow interrupt routine
                                           ; (NOT used in this program)
007E 0005          RT_INT       RETFIE          ; RAL/RT interrupt routine
                                           ; (NOT used in this program)
                                           ;
007F C02B          SRESET       GOTO    START    ; If program became lost, goto
                                           ; START and reinitialize.

;
;
; When the executed address is NOT in the program range, the
; 16-bit address should contain all 1's (a CALL 0x1FFF). At
; this location you could branch to a routine to recover or
; shut down from the invalid program execution.
;
                                ORG     END_OF_PROG_MEM ;
07FF C07F          GOTO     SRESET          ; The program has lost it's mind,
                                           ; do a system reset

                                END
```

```
Errors   :    0
Warnings :    0
```

# PWM Operation

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NOTES:

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# WORLDWIDE SALES & SERVICE

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## AMERICAS

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